

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Causey's Mill
other names/site number 121-0012

2. Location

street & number 11700 Warwick Blvd. not for publication N/A
city or town Newport News vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county City of Newport News code 700 Zip 23606

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x
nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National
Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the
property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceCausey's Mill
Newport News, VA

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: Industrial Sub: Manufacturing facility**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)n/a**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete piers and brick and concrete
roof asphalt shingles
walls 5/8" untapered wood siding boards
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Causey's Mill
Newport News, VA

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture; Industry; Commerce

Period of Significance 1866-1930s

Significant Dates 1866

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder William Causey

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceCausey's Mill
Newport News, VA

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ OtherName of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.180 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
18	368081	4102189	2			<u>See continuation sheet.</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Michael MooreOrganization: Lee Hall Mansiondate September 23, 2007street & number: 163 Yorktown Roadtelephone (757) 888-3371city or town: Newport Newsstate VA zip code 23603

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The City of Newport Newsstreet & number 9285 Warwick Blvd.telephone (757) 247-8523city or town Newport Newsstate VA zip code 23607

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**(Causey's Mill)
(Newport News, VA)**

Section 7 Page 1

7. Summary Description:

Causey's Mill, situated on a 1.18 acre parcel on the shores of Lake Maury and east of Route 60 (Warwick Blvd.), is one of the two last surviving grist mills on the Peninsula. The mill is a small wood frame two-story building supported by a brick and concrete foundation that was constructed in 1866. Causey's Mill is one of many mills that have occupied this site since the mid-17th century.¹ In the 1930s the creation of Lake Maury drastically altered the function of the mill and erased all remnants of the old mill dam and pond.² Today the mill is owned by the City of Newport News which has obtained a 55 year lease of the property.

Detailed Description:

Causey's Mill is a small wood frame two-story building supported by brick and concrete. The exterior is covered with 5/8" thick untapered wood siding boards, which are nailed down by single nails at the studs. The wood siding is painted with a lead-based white paint that has worn off over the years. On the west side of the building, there is a sign on the upper left hand corner reading "Causey's Mill, 1866." The mill has three doors: two are located on the first and second floor of the north elevation, and the third is on the east side. The building also has eight windows. Four windows are found on the west side. Two windows are on each floor of the west side. They have six panes per sash. On the south elevation, there are two windows for providing light into the hurst frame. These windows also have six panes per sash. The last two windows are located in the attic, one on each gable end. The gable windows have six panes per sash. The roof is covered by asphalt shingles installed on top of solid wood sheathing boards. There are eave cornices on the east and west sides, and they have 1" wood fascias and soffits, with a plain, diagonal, flat fascia moulding. There are no gutters or downspouts. Inside the mill there are two floors. The interior also contains a hurst frame which is made completely of wood. In addition, there are bridge trees and bray posts for two runs of the stones; however, only one run was ever installed. The cast iron spindle, which lifted the runner stone above the stationary bed stone, is still in place. The hurst frame is supported by 10"x18" beams that run the whole of the east and west sides of the mill. The building has the tongs for raising the runner stone and the bed stone. On the floor, there is a 20" Leffel or Sampson turbine. The scroll case and gate controls are missing, and perhaps are still in the turbine pit, now submerged in water. The steel turbine shaft, composite drive gear, turbine shaft bearing, and turbine gate shaft bearing remain intact in the hurst frame. The cast iron spur gear used to drive the stone spindle is also still intact. The crank and levers, however, for engaging and disengaging the spur gear are no longer present.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**(Causey's Mill)
(Newport News, VA)**

Section 8 Page 2

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement:

Causey's Mill is locally eligible under Register Criterion A for its association with the milling industry, and under Criterion C for its extant architecture. It is the only grist mill still standing on the lower Peninsula with its original machinery. It was constructed in 1866, but the site has contained various mills since the seventeenth century. The Great Warwick Road crossed Waters Creek over the dam until the twentieth century. On April 4, 1862, Union troops marching from Newport News Point skirmished with Confederate defenders during the initial operations of the Peninsula Campaign. William Causey purchased the property right after Civil War and built the current mill. Causey's Mill was equipped with the advanced machinery of the day with a Leffel turbine for grounding superior corn meal and flour. The mill operated until nearly the twentieth century. The City of Newport News obtained a 55-year lease on Causey's Mill in 2006 and plans are under way for the structure's rehabilitation. The period of significance runs from 1866 until the creation of Lake Maury in the 1930s.

Historical Background:

Causey's Mill, constructed in 1866, is the only grist mill left on the lower Peninsula with its original machinery and serves as a visual reminder of Newport News' agrarian past. In addition, the history of this site dates to a land patent from 1624. Governor Sir Francis Wyatt granted Edward Waters of Elizabeth City County 100 acres between Waters Creek and Blunt Point.³ Later property owners acquired additional land between present-day Cedar Lane and the Mariners' Museum. A grist mill was placed on Waters Creek sometime during the seventeenth century, and there successive mills operated until nearly the twentieth century.

The early ownership of this land is fragmentary due to the destruction of the Warwick County records in the Civil War. William Whitby received a grant for a 1,300 acre tract on the east side of Waters Creek in 1652. In 1675, John Langhorne purchased this tract from William Whitby, Jr. Six years later, Langhorne acquired another 690 acres. The Langhorne property of 1,990 acres was covered by a royal patent dated September 11, 1681. The Langhorne family remained property owners in Warwick County for five generations with their family seat near the mouth of Waters Creek along the James River. In addition, Langhorne's Mill operated on Waters Creek and ground grain for the local market. In 1815, William Langhorne sold to John Mallicote. The Mallicote family sold their land to John Gambol in 1845. Gambol died seven years later, and the land remained with his descendants until acquired by the Mariners' Museum in 1930.⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

(Causey's Mill)
(Newport News, VA)

Section 8 Page 3

Langhorne's Mill ceased to operate before the Civil War and was not listed on the Agricultural Schedule in the 1860 U.S. Census.⁵ The Great Warwick Road, however, crossed Waters Creek over the dam at Langhorne's Mill. During the summer of 1861, the Confederate Army erected several fortifications along the creek. This strategic crossing was the site of a skirmish on April 4, 1862. Union Brigadier General William Farrah Smith's division led the IV Corps advance from Camp Butler toward Young's Mill and engaged the Confederate rear guard at Waters Creek.⁶

After the Civil War concluded in 1865, William Causey purchased the grist mill site and constructed the current mill in 1866. Causey's Mill is built on part of the original foundation of Langhorne's Mill and several of the timbers date to the antebellum era. William Causey replaced the old machinery and installed a new Leffel turbine wheel. James Leffel & Company, established in 1862, manufactured double turbine water wheels, which produced superior water-ground corn meal. Causey's Mill had the newest technology in grist mills. Causey's Mill and the surrounding area, however, was effected when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad was extended in 1881 from Richmond to Newport News. The northern branches of the mill pond were traversed with railroad tracks. By 1890, Collis P. Huntington bought several land tracts, including Causey's Mill, for the construction of a reservoir to support the planned industrial area at Newport News. The reservoir was abandoned once the upper Warwick River was dammed for the city's water source.⁷

The Mariners' Museum was established by Mr. Archer Huntington, and Waters Creek was dammed in 1930 to create Lake Maury. Named for Matthew Fountaine Maury, the lake covers 167 acres and erased the remnants of the old mill dam and pond.⁸ Causey's Mill has been the property of the Mariners' Museum until recently. In 2006, the City of Newport News obtained a 55 year lease of the property. The City's Division of Historic Services is currently planning for the preservation and interpretation of Causey's Mill.

This site meets the qualifications for Criteria A. Causey's Mill site is one of two surviving grist mills left on the Peninsula and contains the original 1866 machinery, which provides vast information about the inner workings of the mill industry. The mill also provides a glimpse of an industry that once dotted the waterways of Virginia. The area has never been excavated, but excavation could yield information pertinent to local industrial and war history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

(Causey's Mill)
(Newport News, VA)

Section 8 Page 4

Endnotes

¹Dorothy Diffenderfer, "Causey's Mill," Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, (Washington, GPO: 1937), 1-3.

²Alexander Crosby Brown, Lake Maury in Virginia (Newport News, VA: The Mariners' Museum, 1936): 33.

³ Ibid, 11-16.

⁴ Ibid., 20-21, 25.

⁵ U.S. Census, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, Warwick County, Virginia.

⁶ "William F. Smith to E.D. Keyes, April 12, 1862, War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1884), Series I, Vol. 11, Part I, 300-301; E.D. Keyes to S. Williams, *ibid.*, 358-59.

⁷ Brown, Lake Maury, 27-28.

⁸ Ibid., 7-8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

(Causey's Mill)
(Newport News, VA)

Section 9, 10 Page 5

9. Bibliography

Brown, Alexander Crosby. *Lake Maury in Virginia*. Newport News, VA: The Mariners' Museum, 1936.

Diffenderfer, Dorothy. "Causey's Mill," Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, Washington, GPO: 1937, 1-3.

U.S. Census, 1860, Agricultural Schedule, Warwick County, Virginia.

U.S War Department. *War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880-1901.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Meridian source and coordinates shown hereon are based on Virginia State Plane Coordinate System 1983 South Zone, and are expressed in U.S. survey feet. Property line information is based on various plats and deeds of record and actual field measurements. This plat was prepared without the benefit of a title report and is not intended to show all the physical improvements, nor all easements that may affect the property. Title to this parcel of land was obtained through Deed Book 59, Page 496 (Warwick County) (See tax map 231. Parcel 1). The existence of hazardous waste, vegetated wetlands, or tidal wetlands was neither investigated nor confirmed for the purpose of this survey plat. The property line between Parcel 1 and Causey's Mill property is as shown on an unrecorded plat entitled "Plat showing the part of the property of the Mariners' Museum located on J. Clyde Morris Blvd, Warwick Blvd., & Lake Maury City of Newport News VA" by Becouvararis & Assoc., Land Surveying, Hampton, Virginia. Dated Jan. 26, 1985, revised March 11, 1989 in possession of the Facilities Management of the Mariners' Museum. Area of proposed 5 foot utility easement = 420 sq. ft or 0.010 acre. Lease area as shown on this plat = 51,398 sq. ft or 1.180 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the grist mill and parcel bounded by Lake Maury and U.S. Route 60 that is leased to the City of Newport News by The Mariners' Museum, and includes 1.180 acres.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**(Causey's Mill)
(Newport News, VA)**

Section **Photo List** **Page** 6

The following is the same for all photos:

Causey's Mill, City of Newport News, Virginia (DHR File #121-0012)

Photographer: Colin Romanik

Date Taken: May 2007

Negatives Number: 23639

Negatives stored at the VDHR in Richmond, Virginia

Photo 1 of 7

Exterior, East Side

Photo 2 of 7

Exterior, West Side

Photo 3 of 7

Exterior, South Side

Photo 4 of 7

Exterior, North Side

Photo 5 of 7

Interior, First Floor, West Side

Photo 6 of 7

Interior, First Floor, East Side

Photo 7 of 7

Interior, First Floor, South Side, Hurst Frame